



AROOSTOOK BAND OF MICMACS

7 NORTHERN ROAD
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ATTN: Senator Davis, Representative Martin, and Members of the Committee on State and Local Government.

RE: Support of LD 890 "An Act to Include a Representative of the Aroostook Band of Micmacs in the House of Representative."

Good morning Senators and Representatives,

My name is Edward PeterPaul, I am the Chief of the Aroostook Band of Micmacs, and I represent the only Micmac Band residing wholly in the United States. The Aroostook Band of Micmacs is part of the Great Micmac Nation which includes 28 other Micmac Bands in Canada. As such, I represent over 1300 citizens out of the over 70,000 Micmac citizens worldwide.

The Aroostook Band of Micmacs Supports LD 890. We understand that the state of Maine has a working relationship with Representatives from the Penobscot, Passamaquoddy and the Maliseet's, and the Aroostook Band of Micmacs wishes join these alliances as well.

However, while the proposed legislation is a huge step for The Aroostook Band of Micmacs and the State of Maine, We do not see the term "Representative" as the most appropriate title for the Tribal position presented. Traditionally, under Micmac custom, the Tribal or Band Chief is the only true "Representative" of our Band(s), and the one chosen by the citizens of our Nation to speak on behalf of the Band. Further, the tribal position in the State Legislature does not carry with it the right to vote.

Under these circumstance, the Aroostook Band of Micmacs would like to propose the use of the title Ambassador to represent its interests in the State Legislature. An Ambassador being a Diplomatic official of the highest rank appointed and accredited as representative in residence by one government to another.

On behalf of the Aroostook Band of Micmacs, I strongly urge you to Support LD 890

Thank You for your support and consideration.

Chief Edward PeterPaul

